

IDAHO ENGINEERING LABORATORY PROPOSED PLANS
PUBLIC MEETING and COMMENT SESSION

May 17, 1995

Boise, Idaho

PRESENTATION NO. 1

Stationary Low-Power Reactor-1 and Boiling Water
Reactor Experiment-I Burial Site Investigations
and Track 1's

SPEAKERS:

Alan Jines, DOE Idaho
Jean Holdren, Lockheed Martin Idaho

PRESENTATION NO. 2

Central Facilities Area Landfills I, II
and III and Track 1's

SPEAKERS:

Alan Dudziak, DOE Idaho
Steve McCormick, Lockheed Martin Idaho

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Jean Underwood, Shawn Rosenberger - Idaho
Division of Environmental Quality

Howard Orlean - Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Office, Seattle, Washington

MODERATOR

Reuel Smith

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1 BOISE, IDAHO, MAY 17, 1995

2
3 MR. SMITH: We appreciate you being
4 here tonight. We will make a transcript of this
5 meeting and it will be available. So if you're
6 aware of other folks, we'll have these transcripts
7 and the information in the repository so the
8 people can see what was presented and what the
9 comments are.

10 One of the things that I did want
11 to bring up tonight was that the Community
12 Relationship Plan has been issued, so it's
13 available to the public now. And a lot of this
14 has taken about two years to update. There
15 was a Focus Group meeting that Beatrice
16 participated in. We had ten other key
17 stakeholders that attended a Focus Group to help
18 review this document and the question then was:
19 "Did we incorporate in this document what you've
20 been telling us for the past couple years?" So
21 it was a productive effort. And this one will
22 be used for the next couple years. And it will
23 be updated.

24 For instance, we just talked
25 informally about how to improve our outreach to

1 the general public. The mechanisms that are in
2 here are based on the past couple of years. If
3 it isn't working today, then we need to change
4 that. Then this is the living document and
5 we'll also change it and update it and make it
6 more contemporary to be effective.

7 I might mention, about a week ago a
8 notice like this was sent out, and this was done
9 in response to public comment. Citizens were
10 saying sometimes we lose information in a
11 twelve-page report, but can you send something
12 that we can put on our refrigerator, so that was
13 the purpose of this card. We may have to
14 explore other ways of sending that out. This
15 went to approximately 7,500 people across the
16 state.

17 Tonight we have four ways that you
18 can comment on this, on the proposed plans.
19 First of all, in the documents, the proposed
20 plans themselves, there is a comment form on the
21 back. It's a business reply form, so you can
22 just send that in. If you would like to turn it
23 in tonight or mail it back in, we'll receive
24 that. Another way is that we have a hand-held
25 recorder that we have available in the back of

1 the room if you'd like to make a comment that
2 way. Another way is that -- and this is in
3 response to public comment, we have a 1-800 line
4 now established, and people can call that
5 information line and go right to a recorder and
6 leave a message and it will be transcribed and
7 it will be added to the official minutes of the
8 activity that's being conducted by this project
9 and it will be included in the Responsive
10 Summary. And the fourth way is that the court
11 reporter is here, and will be taking comments a
12 little later after the presentations and after
13 we have had a chance to have dialogue to talk
14 about your concerns.

15 We're pleased that the agencies are
16 with us here tonight, and I would like to
17 introduce the project managers. For the first
18 presentation on the Stationary Low-Power Reactor
19 and the Boiling Water Reactor Experiment
20 Investigation is Alan Jines from the Department
21 of Energy and Jean Holdren from Lockheed Martin
22 Idaho, and the State counterpart for this
23 project is Jean Underwood with the Division of
24 Environmental Quality here in Boise. And the
25 EPA representative here tonight is Howard Orlean

1 from Region 10 in Seattle.

2 So with that, Jean, would you like
3 to start?

4 MS. UNDERWOOD: Good evening. I'm
5 the State's waste administrative manager for
6 this project. Tonight information is going to
7 be presented regarding the SL-1 and the Borax
8 Reactor site. The State believes the Preferred
9 Remedial Alternative identified in this plan for
10 the SL-1 and the Borax Reactor site is the best
11 approach, as is the proposed No Further Action
12 for the ten Track 1 sites.

13 However, I'd like to emphasize that
14 any comments that you make this evening or
15 through this public comment period, any comments
16 will be used by agencies to arrive at the final
17 decision and the State does appreciate or
18 encourage, your participation in this process.
19 Thank you for coming tonight.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is SL-1
21 referring to?

22 MR. SMITH: That's the shortened
23 acronym for Stationary Low-Power Reactor 1, and
24 the other project is the Boiling Water Reactor
25 Experiment 1.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How do you break
2 up between low power and medium and higher?

3 MR. SMITH: We'll get into that
4 during the presentation. That is a valid
5 question to ask.

6 And we'll be watching acronyms
7 tonight. Just like that, if we hear an acronym,
8 we'll stop and say, "What does that mean?" So I
9 appreciate you raising that issue.

10 Howard?

11 MR. ORLEAN: My name is Howard
12 Orlean. I'm with the Environmental Protection
13 Agency in Seattle. I would like to say for the
14 record, I'm not an attorney. I'm a Superfund
15 site manager, geologist by training. And one of
16 the reasons that I am here is to make sure that
17 the Department of Energy and this format is
18 complying and following the requirements of the
19 National Contingency Plan.

20 To reiterate what Jean said, EPA
21 has reviewed all the technical documents related
22 to the SL-1 and the Borax Preferred Alternative
23 and we concur and agree on the Preferred
24 Alternative.

25 MR. SMITH: All right. Before we

1 get into the presentation, then, I would just
2 like to make one footnote. We'll be talking
3 about two types of investigations tonight in
4 this first presentation. One investigation we
5 call Track 1. The other investigation is a
6 Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study. And
7 quickly, when the three agencies were designing
8 the Federal Facility Agreement and working out
9 the working relationship, they designed a
10 process that would simplify the types of
11 investigations that we need to do. Hopefully
12 they were going to eliminate unnecessary work.

13 They established this Track 1
14 process as a document review, and if
15 reviewing existing information revealed that no
16 contamination was released to the environment,
17 they could say that no further action is
18 required. Or if this early investigation
19 revealed that there were some releases, they
20 could say we'd better do an interim action or
21 we'd better do a longer term investigation,
22 which in some cases could take two to three
23 years. The interim action may take 18 months,
24 something, maybe 12 months to 18 months.

25 They also had a process for a

1 Track 2. If they did a paper search and said,
2 "It's not certain if this is a No Action site or
3 not. We'd better learn more about this site,"
4 they will go out and send someone in the field
5 to do some sampling activity to verify. And
6 again, if nothing was found, the agencies could
7 agree that that would be a No Further Action
8 site or they could say these are the results of
9 the sampling surveys, we'd better take some kind
10 of an action. So there were still two or three
11 options that the agencies could take based on
12 what they learned from the Track 2 investigation.

13 So every one of these is a different
14 level of intensity, different requirements. In
15 addition to those investigations, the Department
16 of Energy can undertake a removal action at any
17 time. If they find something that is an imminent
18 threat of a release to the environment or the
19 workers or to the public, there are some
20 procedures that they go through to designate a
21 site spokesperson and to notify media and have a
22 news release to tell people what is happening
23 here, but they can implement that when it's
24 deemed appropriate.

25 Following any type of investigation

1 results, then we get into a decision phase where
2 we are tonight, where the agencies are
3 discussing the results of these investigations
4 and inviting the public to comment so they can
5 determine a level of public acceptance of these
6 or to determine if the public has ideas and
7 suggestions that they might not have considered
8 and are valid that may affect the Record of
9 Decision.

10 Once this phase is completed, the
11 agencies will make a decision and then spell out
12 the type of action that will be taken. So
13 these proposed plans both contain this type of
14 investigation, the Remedial Investigation
15 Feasibility Study and some Track 1's. The
16 reason the Track 1's are in the proposed plans
17 now is that we can bring both these
18 investigations to closure in this decision
19 phase.

20 So any questions? I don't know if
21 that was very clear. You might see as we go
22 through this presentation the difference in the
23 level of detail that we get in these different
24 types of investigations.

25 So Allen, with that, if you'd like

1 to begin the first presentation.

2
3 PRESENTATION BY DOE IDAHO

4 MR. JINES: Tonight I'll be
5 discussing the burial grounds for two reactors.
6 The first is the Stationary Low-Power Reactor,
7 which is located here at INEL. The second is
8 the Borax-1 reactor, which is located here. The
9 Stationary Low-Power Reactor, which is actually
10 -- this is a shot of the actual site. The
11 reactor was built in the 1950s by the Army to
12 study the feasibility of putting a reactor that
13 could be shut down, moved to a remote Arctic
14 location and then fired up to provide heat and
15 power. And the Army chose the name Stationary
16 Low-Power. That is the only significance that
17 it has that I'm aware of.

18 In 1961 as a result of that
19 accident during routine maintenance operation,
20 it achieved a prompt nuclear reaction. This
21 reaction resulted in a steam explosion, deaths
22 of the three operators on duty, and it ruptured
23 the containment vessel. After the reactor core
24 -- after the fuel that remained in the reactor
25 core was removed, the reactor building was

1 demolished and it was buried here. The reactor
2 originally was located right here. And in this
3 photograph that's right here, this complex of
4 buildings, this shows the road that comes out to
5 this -- this is a current shot of the way the
6 burial ground looks today.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is the date
8 on that larger picture?

9 MR. SMITH: If I remember correctly,
10 it says in the early '80s, so that isn't a
11 present-day picture. It has had some
12 decommissioning and decontamination.

13 MR. JINES: Of the facilities.

14 MR. SMITH: Yes, of the facilities.

15 MR. JINES: That picture was taken
16 at the burial ground. The sagebrush is a little
17 higher is the only difference.

18 During the demolition activities,
19 radionuclides were spread onto the ground around
20 the original location in the reactor area. The
21 sands and gravels that were contaminated were
22 scraped up and were also buried in the burial
23 ground. During the burial activities, there
24 were some releases of radionuclides that fell
25 into this surrounding area. The burial ground

1 itself consists of three excavations 4- to 500
2 feet long. It's a four-acre site.

3 This area, which is encompassed by
4 these dotted lines, is about 37 acres. The
5 Borax-1 was an experimental reactor built in
6 1953. In 1954 at the end of its design life, it
7 was intentionally allowed to achieve what they
8 called an excursion, a critical reaction that
9 was uncontrolled. This resulted in a steam
10 explosion which contaminated the building and
11 the foundation and the land around the building.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me, what
13 year did you say that is?

14 MR. JINES: This is 1954.

15 This is a schematic, this is a
16 fence around the burial ground and this is the
17 foundation. After removing debris and hot
18 particles that landed in the vicinity of the
19 facility, a six-inch gravel layer was laid over
20 the ground in order to inhibit the radiation
21 that was coming up from the contaminated soils.
22 This dotted line represents this gravel covered
23 area. This is about two acres and this burial
24 ground is about 1/5 of an acre.

25 On this photograph this is where

1 the building was and the burial ground is. The
2 top of the building was pushed into the
3 foundation and clean fill was placed over the
4 foundation and bounded. And you can't see it
5 here, but there is actually about a four to five
6 foot mound of soil at this site.

7 Now, during this steam explosion,
8 it was uranium-235 and other radionuclides that
9 were scattered onto the ground. That was
10 significant, so I want to highlight that.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me, are
12 you proposing a cleanup of that or are you going
13 to monitor? I imagine that's in here somewhere.

14 MR. JINES: That's later on. I'm
15 getting to that.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me.

17 MR. JINES: No, that's all right.

18 We have three alternatives.

19 Basically the Preferred Alternative would be to
20 build a cap over the sites, and we have some
21 more discussion on the contaminated soils that
22 are on each site.

23 MR. SMITH: Could we also go back
24 to his first question about the difference
25 between the low power, medium power? If I

1 remember that.

2 MR. JINES: Did I cover that?

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I haven't heard
4 anything on that yet.

5 MR. JINES: The Stationary
6 Low-Power Reactors, there are several reactors
7 that the Army built in the Auxiliary Reactor
8 Area, which -- well, this is just part of it,
9 and on this map it's all in this area around the
10 SL-1. And the Army chose to name it the
11 Stationary Low-Power Reactor. And the purpose
12 of the reactor was they were looking to build
13 something that they could take to a remote
14 installation, an Arctic situation, that could
15 provide heat and power and in a quick time they
16 could shut it down and transport it to somewhere
17 else. It was a small reactor and that was the
18 design purpose.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So it's mobile?

20 MR. JINES: It's kind of funny,
21 they call it Stationary Low, and you think why
22 didn't they call it Mobile Low? I don't know.
23 Maybe because it wasn't on wheels.

24 MS. HOLDREN: The original reactor
25 was called the Stationary Low-Power Reactor

1 because it was a prototype. The reactor that
2 was built subsequently to that was called the
3 ML-1, which was the low power reactor.

4 MR. SMITH: The other part of his
5 question was: Is there a medium -- if there was
6 a low, is there a medium and a high?

7 MR. JINES: No.

8 MR. SMITH: And your answer is no.

9 MR. JINES: There is no technical
10 cutoff.

11 The Remedial Investigation focused
12 on determining the contaminants that were in
13 each burial ground and the risk that these
14 contaminants pose to the human health and the
15 environment. After examining the available
16 records, the agencies decided that no sampling
17 would take place. This decision was made
18 because we had accurate records for the fuel
19 loads that were in each of the reactors and
20 because it's difficult to obtain useful sampling
21 data from a burial ground.

22 Using the fuel loads and the known
23 operating histories in computer models, we've
24 estimated the contaminants that are located in
25 each of the burial grounds. The most significant

1 difference between the two is that on the Borax
2 site we do have considerably more uranium-235 on
3 the ground than we do at the SL-1 site. This is
4 significant because uranium-235 is a hazardous
5 radionuclide and it has a very long half-life,
6 whereas most of the other radionuclides decay
7 away much sooner than a half-life. It expresses
8 how long it takes for half of the radionuclides
9 to decay away.

10 Jean Holdren is a primary author of
11 the Remedial Investigation and the Risk
12 Assessment and she is here to discuss her
13 findings.

14
15 PRESENTATION BY LOCKHEED MARTIN IDAHO

16 MS. HOLDREN: Risk assessment
17 examines the danger a person may encounter while
18 working or living on a site. We perform what is
19 known as a baseline risk assessment, meaning we
20 look at the risk that might exist under the
21 presumption that we performed no remediation.

22 An exposure scenario was a
23 description of how a person can come in contact
24 with a contaminant. Ten exposure scenarios were
25 examined for each of these two sites representing

1 three time frames: today, 30 years in the
2 future, and 100 years in the future.

3 For today's discussion, we chose
4 one scenario from each of those time frames: a
5 pond scenario, a resident living on the site 30
6 years in the future and a farmer living on the
7 site 100 years from now. How a person may
8 actually receive exposure to a contaminant is
9 called an exposure pathway. Of all the exposure
10 pathways possible, the ones that were considered
11 acceptable or feasible under the conditions at
12 these two sites were direct exposure to ionizing
13 radiation and ingestion or inhalation of
14 contamination. These exposures pathways were
15 assessed for each of the scenarios at both
16 sites.

17 The current occupational scenario
18 represents a worker spending up to two weeks a
19 year at the site performing site monitoring,
20 fence maintenance and observations. The
21 exposure pathways for this scenario include the
22 exposure to ionizing radiation, ingestion of
23 soil and inhalation of dust.

24 The scenario 30 years in the future
25 represents a person building a home on the site,

1 living there for 30 years and being exposed to
2 the contamination. Residential groundwater
3 ingestion was added to the list of exposure
4 pathways for this scenario. Note that for
5 both the current occupational and the future
6 residential scenario, we modeled the assumption
7 that the person would be directly exposed to the
8 waste. In reality the situation out there right
9 now is there are two feet of the soil covered
10 over both of these burial grounds.

11 A worker on either site today is
12 protected by the shielding afforded by this soil
13 cover and is also protected by very strict
14 safety precautions at the site. However, for
15 risk assessment purposes, we assume that this
16 soil cover did not offer the shielding that is
17 actually there. The scenario 100 years in the
18 future models a subsistence farm living on the
19 site for 30 years, raising crops and livestock
20 and consuming what is produced. Ingestion of
21 plants, meat and milk were added to the exposure
22 pathway.

23 Exposure to ionizing radiation and
24 soil ingestion were identified as the primary
25 and secondary exposure pathways. This was

1 determined by comparing the estimated risk to
2 the acceptable risk range. The Environmental
3 Protection Agency has established risk
4 guidelines to help us make remediation decisions
5 and define excess cancer risk associated with
6 the site. Each of us is already at risk for
7 contracting cancer. In fact, about one out of
8 every four of us will eventually suffer from
9 some sort of cancer in our lifetime. But excess
10 cancer risks are those over and above the
11 standard risk of getting cancer.

12 The EPA has defined the acceptable
13 excess cancer range from one in 10,000 to one in
14 one million. The estimation of risk is used
15 because estimates are not exact. When we say
16 that the excess cancer risk is one in one
17 million, we mean that there is a probability
18 that one person out of a group of one million
19 people could get cancer as a result of exposure
20 to contamination at one of these burial grounds.
21 This one person in one million would be in
22 addition to the one in four already expected to
23 get cancer for some other reason.

24 Excess risks were estimated for all
25 scenarios and compared to this risk range. The

1 baseline risk assessment focused on cancer risks
2 because the contaminants of these two sites are
3 radionuclides. For radionuclides, the risk in
4 getting cancer far outweigh the risk from the
5 hazardous chemicals. Chemical toxicity was
6 considered but not found to be a significant
7 component of the total risk of either side.

8 Of all the exposure pathways
9 assessed, exposure to ionizing radiation had the
10 highest in all ten scenarios. Soil ingestion
11 was identified as a secondary risk for some
12 scenarios, but at much lower risk levels than
13 the direct exposure pathway. There were no
14 other exposure pathways with risks higher than
15 EPA's acceptable range.

16 In particular, risk due to
17 groundwater ingestion is not a driver at either
18 site because the aquifer will not be significantly
19 impacted by contaminants from either burial
20 ground. In fact, a modeled estimate indicates a
21 maximum excess risk at SL-1 due to groundwater
22 ingestion right at the bottom of EPA's
23 acceptable risk range of one in one million. At
24 Borax-1 it's slightly higher than that at three
25 in one million.

1 Cesium-137 and strontium-90 were
2 identified as the current preliminary risk
3 drivers. Uranium-235 is a component that grows
4 in importance as time goes on as cesium and
5 strontium decay away. Uranium is particularly
6 significant in Borax-1, as Alan discussed
7 earlier.

8 For the residents living on the
9 site 30 years in the future in this scenario, if
10 no remediation is performed at SL-1, then the
11 total risk of cancer is about five in ten. This
12 means that one out of every two people living on
13 the site exposed to the contamination could get
14 cancer as a result. Risks are somewhat less for
15 the other scenarios, but still above acceptable
16 risk range. Similarly if Borax-1 is not
17 remediated, three out of 100 people living on
18 the site and directly exposed to contamination
19 could suffer from radiation-induced cancer.
20 Total excess risks for the other scenarios were
21 also unacceptably high.

22 Excuse me, I have that in the wrong
23 place. I could tell by Howard's look. Thank
24 you, Howard. Does that look better?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say 30?

1 MS. HOLDREN: Three in 100.

2 However these risks are decreasing
3 in time. Cesium-137 is the primary risk driver
4 and cesium-137 has a half-life, the time it
5 takes for half of the radionuclides to get away,
6 of only 30 years. Because of this short
7 half-life, the risk from cesium-137 will
8 decrease depreciablely over the course of the next
9 few hundred years. At SL-1 excess risk due to
10 cesium-137 will enter EPA's acceptable risk
11 range in about 400 years and continue to decrease
12 thereafter.

13 Total excess risk will level off at
14 about three in one million, 650 years from now.
15 At Borax-1, the excess risk due to cesium-137
16 will enter the EPA's acceptable risk range in
17 about 320 years. Prior to that time, however,
18 excess risk will become dominated by the
19 presence of uranium-235. Total excess risk will
20 level off at just about the acceptable risk
21 range of about two in 10,000 in about 320 years.
22 And there it will remain due to the presence of
23 the long-lived uranium-235.

24 As these figures indicate,
25 remediation must be effective for a minimum of

1 400 years at SL-1 and 320 years at Borax in
2 order to be effective in controlling risk from
3 cesium-137.

4 Alan will now come back up and
5 discuss with you the alternatives that were
6 considered to remediate these sites.

7 MR. SMITH: Alan, for those that
8 have just joined us, will you explain what SL-1
9 and Borax-1 stand for, please.

10 MR. JINES: Do you want me to give
11 a brief synopsis of where we're at?

12 MR. SMITH: Yes, I think that would
13 be good.

14 MR. JINES: The SL-1 -- were're
15 talking about burial sites for two reactors
16 tonight. There is the SL-1 reactor site and the
17 Borax-1 reactor site. The SL-1 was a reactor
18 that exploded accidentally and was subsequently
19 buried here, and the Borax was intentionally
20 destroyed and buried here. Basically where we
21 are at now is looking at what are the
22 alternatives to remediate the risk that Jean
23 just discussed.

24 If you have any questions, just
25 feel free to ask.

1 A feasibility study is conducted to
2 explore the range of options that are available
3 to remediate a site. In this case we performed
4 what is called a Focus Feasibility Study. In a
5 Focus Feasibility Study, you only look at
6 alternatives that have been selected as the
7 final remedial action for similar sites. The
8 advantage of a Focus Feasibility Study is it
9 streamlines your investigation, it helps reduce
10 costs and it speeds up the time so we can get to
11 where we are today and be ready to remediate
12 much sooner.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will you explain
14 that?

15 MR. JINES: In a normal feasibility
16 study you explore the full range of options that
17 are available that you can possibly do to the
18 site. In this case we focused on the
19 remediation alternative, in other words, those
20 that had been selected at previous sites for
21 similar contamination so buried, radiologically
22 contaminated debris. So we only looked at
23 options which had been picked before. Does
24 that -- do you understand?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The procedure
2 that you did that was done to Borax-1, when was
3 that done?

4 MR. JINES: 1954.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That is obviously
6 not something that's been done any further?

7 MR. JINES: No.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How do they check
9 the leachability of the contaminants there on
10 these sites as far as the groundwater and that
11 sort of thing? Do they have a tendency to
12 actually cohere to other things, make them heavy
13 as you drop them into the ground?

14 MR. JINES: Well, there were a
15 number of fission products released as a result
16 of the explosion and some of the fission
17 products will percolate down through the soil,
18 and others won't, others will bind to the soil.

19 In this case there were some
20 fission products, which according to the
21 computer models that were used to analyze the
22 site did percolate down to the groundwater,
23 actually by 1980 according to our model, but in
24 our actual sampling results we haven't found any
25 contamination. Our models are very concerned

1 that we go to the worst case scenario.

2 Let me back up. Those radionuclides
3 that reach the aquifer, they weren't there in a
4 high enough concentration to bring us into the
5 unacceptable risk range that Jean was talking
6 about. They were on the order of one in 10
7 million increased risk of cancer so....

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you check as
9 far as the density from surface level to the
10 water table on those as far as when the greatest
11 numbers of those radionuclides actually get to
12 the water table? I mean, you are saying that
13 it's already happened. Are you pretty sure of
14 that? Has there been core tests done where they
15 can see where the concentrations are down to the
16 soil levels?

17 MR. JINES: I understand your
18 question -- I think I understand your question.
19 If I get it wrong, let me know. What we did is
20 a worst case analysis. We made conservative
21 assumptions to create the worst scenario that we
22 could come up with in our model.

23 If that model had indicated that we
24 have an unacceptable risk going into the
25 groundwater, then we would go to the next step

1 and perform more investigation to get better
2 information such as core sampling or groundwater
3 wells. We then say we have a risk, let's
4 verify. In this case because even with our
5 conservative assumption we came up with nothing,
6 the worst case scenario there is not an
7 unacceptable risk, we didn't do any further
8 investigation.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I see.

10 MR. JINES: Does that make sense?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, it does.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Were you taking
13 some service samplings a meter or two or ten
14 meters or so there on that?

15 MR. JINES: We haven't done that yet,
16 but we're going to. I'm going to be discussing
17 that a little bit more later. Let me try to
18 answer your question. And if I don't, tell me
19 that I blew it. Okay? Are there any more
20 questions? I don't mean to cut anybody off.

21 Okay. That's what a Focus
22 Feasibility Study is. We're just looking at
23 alternatives that have been selected before.

24 So this leaves us with four
25 alternatives that we evaluated with our

1 Feasibility Study, the first of which is No
2 Action, and it's not that that one has been
3 selected, but we're required by law to analyze
4 the No Action alternative. The second is
5 Institutional Controls. This consists of taking
6 steps to prevent somebody from actually going
7 out onto the burial ground and living there, so
8 we prevent the direct exposure to the radiation
9 by not allowing people to go out there. The
10 third alternative is containment with a cap; and
11 the fourth alternative is excavation and removal
12 of the contaminated debris.

13 In order to select between these
14 four alternatives, we compared them to these
15 evaluation criteria. All except for this last
16 one, which is public acceptance, we haven't made
17 that evaluation. That's what we will be doing
18 throughout the comment period based on your
19 comments. When we perform this evaluation,
20 Institutional Controls dropped out because it
21 doesn't meet the test for long-term effectiveness.
22 These radionuclides are going to pose a hazard
23 for 320 to 400 years.

24 The three remaining alternatives we
25 explored in further depth. The first is No

1 Action. In this situation the waste would be
2 left in place, we would perform long-term
3 environmental monitoring, which would include
4 drilling, monitoring wells into the aquifer to
5 confirm that no radionuclides have made it into
6 the aquifer.

7 We have a cost for the SL-1 of
8 \$1.1 million and for the Borax-1 is \$4.4
9 million. That cost is based on 30 years of
10 monitoring and also the installation of the
11 monitoring wells.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Installation of
13 monitoring what?

14 MR. JINES: Wells, I'm sorry.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sir, is that per
16 year or for the 30 years?

17 MR. JINES: That's for the 30-year
18 period. The second alternative is the Preferred
19 Alternative and it's containment by capping, but
20 in this alternative we would be constructing an
21 engineered barrier which would consist of sand,
22 gravel and cobble and it would be in layers.

23 The purpose of the barrier is to
24 prevent direct exposure to the ionizing
25 radiation. The sand layer inhibits insects and

1 the gravel layer inhibits small burrowing
2 mammals and plant intrusion. And the large
3 cobbled layers inhibit larger mammals such as
4 marmots and coyotes and also what we call the
5 inadvertent intruder, which is basically
6 somebody who is just out prospecting, digging
7 holes unaware that they are on a burial site.
8 It would also inhibit contaminant migration by
9 preventing wind and water erosion.

10 We would perform the same periodic
11 monitoring. For the SL-1 we have a cost range
12 of \$3.8 to \$8.8 million, and for the Borax-1 is
13 \$2.3 to \$4.7 million. The reason we have a cost
14 range is because of these contaminated soils
15 that we discussed previously.

16 When we're working on the design of
17 the cap, we'll perform monitoring and sampling
18 of these contaminated soils that surround each
19 of the burial grounds. If we find that these
20 soils have a high enough level of radiation that
21 they can't remain in place, then we will
22 consolidate them under the cap. This will
23 increase the size of the cap and also there is
24 considerable effort in collecting up the surface
25 of 37 acres of soil. So that would put us on

1 the upper end of the price range. If we can
2 leave the soils in place and let them decay
3 naturally, then we would be on the lower end of
4 the price range. This situation is similar for
5 the Borax site. We will be looking at this
6 gravel covered area as outlined by the dotted
7 line.

8 The third option that we've looked
9 at is excavation and removal. Under this
10 scenario we would construct a small building
11 over each of the sites to prevent dust from
12 getting out and blowing around. We would then
13 use conventional excavation equipment to go in
14 and excavate the equipment. We would haul it to
15 the Radioactive Waste Management Complex, which
16 is on site at the INEL, we would then backfill
17 each of the sites with clean soil, reseed and we
18 would have clean closures.

19 For the SL-1, the cost range is
20 \$68.9 to \$200 million and for the Borax-1 is
21 \$8.4 to \$20.5 million. And that cost range
22 again reflects the final disposition of these
23 contaminated soils, only in this case we would
24 be collecting the soils and actually hauling
25 them to the Radioactive Waste Management Complex

1 for reburial along with the other debris.

2 The advantages of the Preferred
3 Alternative is that it reduces risks to levels
4 that protect human health and the environment.
5 The second primary benefit or advantage is that
6 it protects workers and the public during the
7 remediation alternative. This is important
8 because this is a primary difference between the
9 Capping Alternative and the Excavation and
10 Removal Alternative. Under excavation and
11 removal, there is a possibility of having some
12 worker exposure.

13 It will inhibit the migration of
14 the contaminants and it provides for an
15 effective long-term barrier to prevent anybody
16 from getting to the contaminants. There is one
17 disbenefit to the protective cap. As we have
18 discussed with the Borax-1 site, the risks never
19 decline to two in 10,000. When we design
20 something like a barrier, really any engineered
21 device, you have to assume a design life. In
22 the case of a cap, we would select a design life
23 of 320 years for the Borax-1 and 400 years for
24 the SL-1. If the cap does fail in 320 years,
25 and the cap completely goes away and the

1 protective soil that is there on the site goes
2 away, then anybody that chose to live on that
3 site would be subject to an increased cancer
4 risk of two in 10,000.

5 The Track 1 process is a process
6 that the Department of Energy uses to access
7 sites to determine if further action is going to
8 be required or if further investigation is going
9 to be required or if no further action is
10 warranted.

11 In this case we have ten sites
12 included in this proposed plan. Seven of them
13 are located at the Power Burst Facility Area,
14 and three of the sites are located at the
15 Auxiliary Reactor Area, which is located
16 adjacent to the SL-1. In fact, this photograph
17 that we had up before, this is part of the
18 Auxiliary Reactor Area. Each of these sites
19 have been found to contain no or very low levels
20 of contamination. Those that have contamination
21 don't have enough to pose an unacceptable risk.
22 It's for these reasons that the agencies have
23 recommended that no further action be taken on
24 any of these sites.

25 MR. SMITH: Thanks, Alan and Jean.

1 We want to give you an opportunity to ask
2 questions for clarification. Was there anything
3 in the presentation -- did we answer the
4 questions that you asked? Now is the time.
5 Let's go into that kind of dialogue if you like,
6 or if there is something that kind of seems like
7 it was left hanging, let us know and let's talk
8 it through.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question
10 on that method about putting different kinds of
11 material over the top of the SL-1. Is that --
12 so that would actually also protect, what, any
13 kind of a surface radiation exposure as well as
14 protecting animals from getting into the
15 material at the same time?

16 MR. JINES: Well, I didn't explain
17 that well. I'm glad that you brought that up.
18 First off, right now we have at least two feet
19 of soil over the SL-1 burial ground. If you go
20 out there with a meter, you won't find any more
21 radiation coming out of that ground than you do
22 any of the other ground out at the INEL
23 background levels. So we don't really have a
24 present day risk.

25 Our risk numbers are based on the

1 assumption that that two feet of top soil blows
2 away, essentially. Now, the reason that
3 prohibiting intrusion is important is because
4 when an animal burrows, they bring soil back up.
5 We're not concerned about the individual animal,
6 we're concerned that they will bring hot
7 particles up to the surface where a person can
8 get exposed, that's why it's significant. And
9 the same with the plants, their roots can
10 transform radionuclides up into their foliage.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

12 MR. SMITH: Yes, Senator.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You also do not
14 include in there the root structure of the
15 plants and the other facilities out there that
16 absorb the water, the natural occurring rain and
17 snowfall out there so that it doesn't leach out
18 the bottom of these pits. If I remember right,
19 some of the material that you sent to my home
20 mentions also that you have done some extensive
21 studies on the amount of water that goes on at
22 these, so it's contained by the root structure
23 of the plants that cover these particular pits
24 out there too.

25 It looks like to me that you made a

1 pretty thorough job of assigning risk involved,
2 certain things that cause the water. In other
3 words, you have water standing on top of these
4 pits and it will permeate through the root
5 structure of the these plants and then it goes
6 into the material and goes out the bottom of the
7 pits. Well, the soil structure that you're
8 talking about, you've also included to limit
9 that by the amount of plants, the native plants
10 to that desert area that would absorb this
11 material.

12 And I disagree that you guys are
13 concerned about the burrowing rodents and the
14 other things, because if they do get in there
15 and bring it to the surface, other animals eat
16 these things and then you have a shredded area
17 and I noticed some of your material addresses
18 even those risks in that.

19 I think you guys have done a lot of
20 other studies that you haven't told the people
21 about. I have a real comfort level about what
22 you people are doing. And I received the two
23 big books that you people have that cover all
24 the sites that DOE has within the other states
25 and the other areas with that, and those were

1 pretty thorough studies. But I've got to tell
2 you that you people have taken a greater
3 interest in the remediation than your
4 predecessor did in that specific area, and I
5 think that you've done a far greater job of
6 notifying the public as to what the acceptable
7 risk levels are or would be if you get into that
8 stuff.

9 I think you people ought to be
10 congratulated for what you're trying to do. I
11 have a problem with it, but I think you people
12 are struggling as best you can with the data
13 that you have and the technology that we have
14 available to keep that thing in there, so I
15 compliment you rather than come to flog you.

16 MR. JINES: I appreciate that.

17 MR. SMITH: Let me try to address
18 some of the questions that you brought up. We
19 have done a lot of research at the INEL, you're
20 correct. Some of the research has involved --
21 and it's ongoing research, determining how much
22 of the rainfall penetrates that plant layer and
23 how much of that is actually transpired back up,
24 that takes into account the rainfall that
25 actually evaporates off the desert. And

1 transpiration is how much the plants actually
2 suck up. And you're right, that water gets
3 trapped in the root zone and brought back up,
4 it's not available to go down into the debris
5 that is buried in each of these locations, and
6 we can take advantage of that. But it's
7 important to understand that for our modeling we
8 look for the worst case scenario. So we assumed
9 that there was no vegetation whatsoever on the
10 site and we assumed that there is no evaporation
11 whatsoever. In fact, we modeled if all the
12 rainfall completely penetrated the burial ground
13 and goes down into it.

14 MS. UNDERWOOD: For those of you
15 that came in a little later, I'm Jean Underwood.
16 I'm with the State of Idaho. I'm the waste
17 group manager for this project. We've had our
18 hydrogeologist -- we were kind of concerned a
19 little bit with that issue that you raised with
20 the infiltration rate, how would that affect the
21 modeling that was done thus far. And so what
22 our hydrogeologist has done was a sensitivity
23 analysis and did exactly what Alan was
24 explaining that we're just assuming that 100
25 percent of that infiltration went down through

1 there. Also we looked at doubling and tripling
2 the source trip concentrations for the
3 sensitivity analysis. And basically we're
4 showing that there was really no difference in
5 the risk that was estimated under the other
6 assumption.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Again, I've
8 recovered from that jolt. My thought -- what my
9 thought was, that's why your model shows by the
10 next 20 or 30 years, or whatever you reach, the
11 material that does get into the aquifer system,
12 but according to the tests that you have now
13 shows none coming down. That is why you've
14 underrated the natural activities that happen
15 within that deterrent area.

16 MR. JINES: Absolutely. That is
17 just one of them. There are other conservative
18 assumptions built into the model that just make
19 the worst case scenario. For example, travel
20 time through the basalt layer, we assume is
21 zero. We assume that the water falls into the
22 tube that goes "shoo," and it only slows down
23 when it gets to what we refer to as interbeds,
24 which is soil between the different layers of
25 basalt.

1 So there are a number of conservative
2 assumptions. We're trying to get the worst case
3 scenario. In this case, try as we might, we
4 couldn't show that there was an unacceptable
5 risk to the aquifer.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you gentlemen
7 plan to talk about the off-site monitoring team
8 that goes off and checks these things to find
9 out how much strontium-90 is in the lettuce
10 leaves and the iodine and the other materials
11 which is coming through the soil? Are you going
12 to talk about the off site?

13 MR. JINES: I'm not really prepared
14 to discuss that tonight, no.

15 MR. SMITH: The format that we
16 would like to continue on here is continue to
17 have dialogue back and forth, discuss some of
18 the questions that you might have particularly
19 in preparation of you preparing comments for the
20 record. The court reporter that is with us
21 tonight will record public comments verbatim.
22 So after our dialogue here, we would like to
23 invite any and all of you to make comments. You
24 can give them verbally and we'll record those.
25 We have comment sheets on the back of the

1 procedure plans that you can send in anytime
2 during the comment period.

3 The comment period on this project
4 does end on June 3rd. You can call the 1-800
5 number at the INEL. And we debated how to do
6 this, but you'll get a recording and it says,
7 "If you'd like to leave a recording on the two
8 projects that have open comment period, press
9 one." If you press one, it would say, "If you
10 wish to comment on these specific projects,
11 begin your comment..." and that type of thing.
12 So you can do that. We have a hand-held
13 recorder here tonight and you're welcome to give
14 a comment into the record in that hand-held
15 recorder. So there are a number of options open
16 to you. But before we get to that point of
17 comments, we would still like to continue
18 questions and answers.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: As far as the
20 cap, the containment cap, when you look at that
21 containment cap and you foresee a cross section
22 on the analysis of that and you've discussed it,
23 sand, large boulders obviously on top, and
24 you're getting smaller and smaller as you work
25 down, are you seeing that as actually built upon

1 the -- at a higher elevation than the
2 surrounding ground area?

3 MR. JINES: Well, let me address
4 that. We're actually planning to put a
5 foundation under each of the burial sites of
6 about two feet of just regular soil so we'll
7 have a level platform to work from, and we'll
8 compact it so that we have a stable cap so as
9 years go by we decrease substenance and we'll be
10 putting water diversion measures into effect
11 within the SL-1.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Weep holes?

13 MR. JINES: Not weep holes. but
14 the SL-1 -- you can't see in this photograph,
15 this is actually a geographically depressed
16 area. So what we'll do is we'll cut a channel
17 through one of these bridges to make sure that
18 the area drains so we don't get any ponding.
19 The cap itself will be several feet thick.

20 The Borax-1 is actually on a gentle
21 hill, so it's a little easier there. So we have
22 natural draining at the Borax-1, but we don't
23 envision weep holes in the cap. The cap will
24 not be specifically constructed to decrease
25 infiltration because we haven't found any threat

1 posed by infiltration.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was just
3 thinking of the actual buildup of the mound type
4 system and as to whether or not it would be
5 stable enough to go through earthquakes, wind,
6 erosion, water erosion. If you could stabilize
7 it for a 400-year period of time and think that
8 you could do so without a concrete structure
9 entirely around it to hold it up, then the
10 concrete is questionable as to whether or not it
11 would stay in place for 400 years.

12 MR. JINES: We actually evaluated
13 concrete and we ruled it out because of those
14 concerns. We are confident that we can build a
15 cap but whether or not it can withstand the
16 worst earthquake that you can think of in your
17 mind, I can't answer.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If you were to
19 build it above the ground to where the kinetic
20 energy of it would want to roll it flat --

21 MR. JINES: No, it won't be
22 anything like that. The SL-1 is a four-acre
23 site, and we're looking at the cap that's a
24 maximum of up to eight to ten feet thick.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I see.

1 MR. JINES: It's really not going
2 to have any overturning or anything like that,
3 so the sides are sloped very gently.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Putting these
5 caps on, you wouldn't actually disturb the
6 contaminants that are in the ground to date?

7 MR. JINES: That's correct.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But you would
9 take off part of that topsoil layer in order to
10 excavate down to a point where the cap would
11 actually start?

12 MR. JINES: It's possible we would
13 break up the top layer of debris --

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Scarify it.

15 MR. JINES: That would be about
16 it -- not debris, but vegetation.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Vegetation.
18 You're saying as far as the vegetation,
19 transpiration that takes place, still you're
20 saying there are very little radionuclides that
21 the plant actually draws, and as far as the
22 bonding that happens around the root system and
23 brings it up and transpires through the plant,
24 you say that it's minimum or are you saying that
25 there is quite a bit there? Because what we're

1 talking about is bonding to water molecules; is
2 that correct?

3 MR. JINES: I believe that's the
4 mechanism. It's really on the edge of my
5 understanding of how the plants actually draw
6 contamination up. The plants do draw the
7 contamination up, that is a concern. We've
8 looked at it at the INEL in terms of the
9 vegetation bringing contaminants to the surface
10 and making them available, and the quantities
11 that we've looked at to date, we haven't really
12 found a risk, but it is a possible path.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's one of the
14 reasons that this cap would inhibit that?

15 MR. JINES: It would be
16 specifically designed to inhibit that.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I see; that's
18 good.

19 MR. JINES: Yeah. In fact, let me
20 just go on because I love this topic. We have
21 experiments going on at the INEL right now to
22 determine the most effective barriers for ants
23 and for small burrowing mammals and for plants.
24 So we have on-site information that we're
25 developing that we can use to design the cap.

1 MR. SMITH: Okay. We can go into
2 the comment period if that's acceptable to
3 everyone unless there is another question that
4 you would like to ask?

5 Essentially what this consists of
6 is an opportunity for you tonight to tell us
7 what your feelings are about this proposed plan.
8 There has been a discussion of three
9 alternatives. We'll put that board back up with
10 the three, and you're welcome to address your
11 concerns with any of the three alternatives, to
12 recommend other alternatives that you may be
13 familiar with or you think will work here or
14 combinations of any of these alternatives.

15 So at this time, then, let's take
16 comments. We'd ask that you say your name and
17 we need to have your address. We would like to
18 send you a copy of the Record of Decision that
19 proceeds out of these meetings, and if you'll
20 speak fairly loudly, I think it will be heard up
21 here in front of the room. And the agencies
22 will respond to your comments in a document
23 called a Responsiveness Summary which will be
24 attached to this Record of Decision that comes
25 out. So with that -- pardon me, I'm sorry, if

1 you'll spell your last name so we get that
2 correctly for the record. Thank you, Alan.

3 With that, would any of you like to
4 make a comment at this time with the court
5 reporter?

6
7 Q/A AND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Bruce
9 Allen and I live in Ketchum, Idaho; P.O. Box
10 1992 in Ketchum. The zip code is 83340.

11 Looking at and having read this and
12 having a pretty good grasp about the national
13 sciences, having degrees in it, I think the
14 Containment No. 2 would be in my opinion the
15 Preferred Alternative in this situation.

16 I think that No Action is -- I
17 think that that's -- we created this mess in our
18 lifetime, we need to clean up this mess in our
19 lifetime. I don't think we need to leave it for
20 future generations. Plus I think that there is
21 a good possibility that we could have airborne
22 particulate activity with this thing as far as
23 with wind erosion, and that is really what I'm
24 mostly concerned about in this situation, in all
25 of these sites, really, is the possibility of

1 having wind erosion take place.

2 I think that in any of these sites
3 I would prefer that nothing that is contaminated
4 is ever touched again and everything is left in
5 place. If you're going to mount on top of it
6 sufficient weight where the shaking of the
7 earthquake -- I mean, there is a fault line that
8 is running through this area -- you wouldn't
9 worry about it sloughing off and creating even a
10 larger problem than is already there. I think
11 I'll indicate to whoever happens upon it in the
12 future generations, it will indicate to them that
13 this wouldn't be a proper place to put a
14 foundation for a home or put a garden in.
15 Whether we are able to communicate to those
16 future generations or not, in 400 years Lord
17 knows where we'll be as far as the human race,
18 we all know that, so that's about all I have to
19 say about that.

20 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Following
21 this we'll take a break. If you would be
22 interested in filling out a form, we have a box
23 back here where you can turn that in or we have
24 the hand-held recorder if you would like to use
25 that option also. So pending any other comments,

1 we'll go ahead and close this comment period on
2 the Stationary Low-Power Reactor and the Boiling
3 Water Experiment Reactor. And we appreciate
4 your patience with us tonight.

5 We'll take a five-minute break
6 while we bring up the next presentation. This
7 next presentation will be about the Central
8 Facilities Area Landfills, another Remedial
9 Investigation Feasibility Study, and we have
10 some Track 1 sites in this one as well. So if
11 you don't mind, we'll take that quick break and
12 bring the new boards up.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Actually the
14 comment period won't end until June 30, will it?

15 MR. SMITH: There were two comment
16 periods and they were purposely offset so if you
17 had comments coming in, you wouldn't have to do
18 them in a panic. There is about a week
19 separation between the dates. This project that
20 we just heard ends June 3rd. This next project
21 ends May 26.

22 MR. ORLEAN: He said comment, but
23 he meant meeting.

24 (A recess was taken.)

25 MR. SMITH: This is the second part

1 of the meeting tonight. It's another proposed
2 plan. In the past we've -- there has been an
3 issue about how many topics to have in one
4 evening. And fairly early on, individuals
5 expressed the concern of rather than having
6 frequent meetings, the preference was not to
7 have more than two topics, and we have been
8 following that guideline pretty closely and try
9 to group these presentations in the same
10 evening. This one here is actually for, oh,
11 kind of a review of an announcement that this
12 investigation was starting in August of '93,
13 so this one has been going on for some time.
14 Citizens were aware of it during that same
15 time frame, August '93 sometime.

16 We've had regular reports on the
17 status of the investigation through the INEL
18 Reporter, which is a newsletter that we send out
19 every two months. If you're not on that mailing
20 list, we have a sign-up sheet back here too. We
21 would like to get that information to you.

22 But I would like to introduce the
23 individuals that are associated with this
24 project. From the Department of Energy we have
25 Alan Dudziak, and Lockheed Martin Idaho, Steve

1 McCormick, and the State of Idaho representative
2 on this project is Shawn Rosenberger, who is
3 with the Division of Environmental Quality in
4 the Idaho Falls office, and from EPA Region 10,
5 Howard Orlean out of Seattle. Would you two
6 care to make a statement and let them know your
7 role and involvement in this project?

8 MR. ROSENBERGER: My name is Shawn
9 Rosenberger. I'm the Waste Area Group project
10 manager for the Central Facilities Area for the
11 state. We have been involved in the investigation
12 to review their sampling plans, their
13 investigation, reports and feasibility studies
14 and we are in concurrence with their Preferred
15 Alternative that they present tonight.

16 Tonight we encourage you to comment
17 and ask any questions that you may have, and
18 keep in mind that this is a proposed plan, so if
19 there are any concerns that you have tonight, we
20 will consider those when we write the Record of
21 Decision.

22 With that, I'll turn it over to
23 Howard.

24 MR. ORLEAN: Again, I'm Howard
25 Orlean from EPA. I thank you all for coming

1 tonight. Similarly to Shawn, we have reviewed
2 all the technical documents related to the
3 Central Facilities Area and we concur on the
4 Preferred Alternative and Proposed Plan. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. SMITH: Alan, go ahead.

7
8 PRESENTATION BY DOE IDAHO

9 MR. DUDZIAK: Good evening. I'm
10 Alan Dudziak. I'm the DOE waste area manager,
11 project manager for the Central Facilities Area,
12 and I'm here tonight to share some information
13 with you about Remedial Investigation that we
14 did on the landfills and how we're proposing to
15 remediate them. At the end I'll also be talking
16 about several underground storage tank sites,
17 all of which we recommend no further action on.

18 Beginning here I would like to
19 point out some differences between this project
20 or these sites and the ones that you heard about
21 earlier this evening, the SL-1 and Borax-1. The
22 primary difference is -- and this will be
23 reflected in our Preferred Alternative -- that
24 we do not have any clearly identified risks at
25 these sites. The action is based on certainty

1 with what might be there and also we don't have
2 the long-term radiological concerns that SL-1
3 and Borax have, and that will be reflected in a
4 different type of cap that we're proposing.

5 To get oriented, you have seen this
6 before, the location of the INEL, and these are
7 the two projects that you heard about earlier,
8 and this is the Central Facilities Area where
9 the landfills are and most of the underground
10 storage tank sites.

11 I would like to start with a little
12 bit of background and history and orient you
13 toward these sites here. This is the Central
14 Facilities Area, an aerial picture looking
15 south, and here is basically the CFA proper, and
16 up to the northwest of it is where the landfills
17 are. This is Landfill I, it's about eight acres
18 which was operated from the 1950s until 1984,
19 although most of the disposals were prior to the
20 opening of Landfill II over here in 1972, which
21 operated until 1982, and it's about 15 acres.
22 Landfill III is about 12 acres. It's this outlined
23 portion. It operated from 1982 until 1984.

24 So we have a total of about 35 acres.
25 There is a section here that you can see that's

1 going to be using this diagram to describe the
2 investigation that we performed on these
3 landfills. Our investigation consists of
4 looking at the most likely exposure pathways
5 where a contaminant that is in the waste would
6 likely migrate out of the waste and create an
7 exposure. We looked at the collected samples
8 from the existing soil covers from the air above
9 the covers and also from groundwater wells in
10 the vicinity of the landfill itself.

11 The results of the investigation
12 shown here indicate the presence of these
13 compounds and risk assessment. The risk
14 assessment that we performed shows that these
15 compounds do not pose a clear unacceptable risk.

16 Also, there is not a clear trend in
17 the groundwater data that would lead us to
18 believe that the landfills are a source of
19 contamination to the aquifer itself such as is
20 illustrated here. We also discovered that there
21 is no hot spot in the landfills or an area in
22 the waste that contains an area of intense
23 contamination that we identified.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are you saying
25 there is no decay that is happening there that

1 you can see?

2 MR. McCORMICK: No, there is decay.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are there natural
4 gases that are being emitted from the decay?

5 MR. McCORMICK: We did detect low
6 concentrations of low volatile organics coming
7 off the landfill above the cover and in the
8 cover, but not to an extent that it would create
9 a health risk.

10 Our investigation consisted of
11 looking, though, at the pathways where
12 contamination would escape the waste. We did
13 not look at the waste itself or try to sample
14 that because that kind of sampling approach
15 involves a degree of uncertainty. The best way
16 I can think of to illustrate the uncertainty
17 related to this is that most of you have been to
18 a landfill at some time or another, you'll have
19 people there disposing of their grass and weeds
20 and trees, couches, televisions, whatever,
21 containers that only they know what is in them,
22 you know, and you'll have a bulldozer compacting
23 the waste and covering it with soil. After a
24 few years, you'll end up, the landfill will
25 become full, a soil cover will be placed on it

1 and now you're faced with the task of how do we
2 evaluate this landfill.

3 And the simple answer is you really
4 can't cost effectively evaluate the waste after
5 it's placed in the landfill because if you try
6 to collect a sample here, how do you know that
7 it's indicative of the rest of the waste? And
8 if you collect a lot of samples, how do you know
9 that a lot of samples are indicative of the rest
10 of the waste? Some of the uncertainties that we
11 discovered at these landfills, I've already
12 discussed the representative nature of sampling
13 data, collecting a sample. The disposal records
14 that we do have are not specific as to the type
15 of contaminants and the volumes of waste.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is that still the
17 case? Is the garbage that's being dumped out
18 there at this point, is that being monitored?

19 MR. McCORMICK: These landfills are
20 closed.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But there is
22 still landfills that are being used out there;
23 is that correct?

24 MR. McCORMICK: That's right.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are these new

1 landfills, are these being monitored as far as
2 what is going into them at this point?

3 MR. McCORMICK: They are. In fact,
4 a lot of the waste streams that used to go into
5 this type of landfill have been diverted to
6 other areas. And the ones that I know of only
7 accept so-called industrial waste, concrete,
8 steel, scrap metal, solid materials.

9 At any rate, you can see how
10 uncertainty plays a role in this kind of
11 decision-making process when we end up with a
12 massive waste that is randomly distributed and
13 unsorted. And in our evaluation, because of the
14 uncertainty, the agencies felt it was important
15 to evaluate alternatives for this site. And
16 Alan will come back up and tell you about the
17 alternatives that we did evaluate.

18 MR. DUDZIAK: So where do we go
19 from here? Basically we have done an
20 investigation, we have not found any clearly
21 identified unacceptable risks; however, we have
22 a lot of uncertainty because you can't really
23 characterize a landfill. And because, as Steve
24 mentioned, the general nature of the disposal
25 records, especially in the earlier days, the

1 records were extremely general saying -- though
2 it doesn't give details on exactly what went
3 into them, in the more recent times we have
4 better and better records.

5 But we are looking at, like,
6 Landfill I goes back to the '50s. So basically
7 the risk assessment does not show any clearly
8 identified unacceptable risks. We have all this
9 uncertainty we can't really characterize. And I
10 think Steve alluded to this also, as we did the
11 investigation we did not identify, like, any
12 extraordinary risks from any particular
13 contaminants, so we don't have reason to believe
14 that there is any severe problem that would
15 warrant a more severe action than what we're
16 proposing.

17 So basically in order to minimize
18 the potential risks, given the uncertainty that
19 we have, we developed some remedial action
20 objectives. And basically the objectives for
21 our remedial action here are to prevent contact
22 with the waste of the landfill contents, to
23 protect the aquifer and to comply with all
24 applicable or relevant and appropriate
25 requirements. Because that is such a mouthful,

1 we'll refer to those as ARARs.

2 Basically what these are is the
3 various laws and regulations which could affect
4 a site such as this. And if an ARAR is
5 applicable, that means that it applies to this
6 site, this site is bound by law to comply with
7 that requirement. It's relevant and appropriate.
8 It means that it's basically a regulation or a
9 law that we can look to for guidance on what
10 types of measures would be appropriate for our
11 site and we can select from those to determine
12 the appropriate remedial action. And one place
13 that we looked for ways to meet these objectives
14 was in EPA's Presumptive Remedy Guidance for
15 CERCLA landfills.

16 MR. SMITH: Al, would you define
17 what CERCLA is?

18 MR. DUDZIAK: CERCLA is the
19 Comprehensive Environmental Response and
20 Liability Act, or Superfund is another term for
21 it. We generally refer to it as CERCLA. I'm
22 sorry for using that acronym. I apologize for
23 using that before I defined it.

24 Basically the presumptive remedy is
25 proven technologies for dealing -- that have

1 been used on landfills in the past and are
2 recommended for sites such as these. Because of
3 all the uncertainty with the landfill and the
4 difficulty in really characterizing it, we have
5 the Presumptive Remedy Guidance to look to on
6 possible ways to remediate.

7 And we did find that remedial
8 action of these landfills is consistent with
9 EPA's Presumptive Remedy Guidance for CERCLA
10 landfills.

11 Now, when we get to looking at a
12 site like this, there is some general response
13 actions that we can consider. One is the No
14 Action Alternative or response action. And this
15 one the law requires us to evaluate. Two others
16 are Institutional Controls and Containment, and
17 these are found in the Presumptive Remedy
18 Guidance. Institutional Controls is basically
19 putting up a fence or otherwise restricting
20 access in order to keep people away from the
21 sites, therefore mitigating the risk.

22 Containment would be something like
23 a cap or an enhanced cover that would better
24 contain the wastes in order to prevent exposure.
25 In our particular case, containment will limit

1 exposure to the landfill waste as well as limit
2 potential migration of contaminants away from
3 them, notably to groundwater. As Steve showed
4 you earlier, there is potential leachate that
5 comes out of a landfill and one of the things
6 that we're looking to do is minimize that
7 potential by reducing infiltration.

8 Specific alternatives that we
9 developed for these sites -- excuse me, I'm
10 getting ahead of myself. From our general
11 response action, we have to find alternatives
12 and then evaluate them with respect to these
13 evaluation criteria. Basically, we want
14 alternatives that will protect human health and
15 the environment, comply with ARARs and meet
16 these others, as you can see up here.

17 Part of what we're here for tonight
18 is the last one, and that is public and state
19 acceptance, more specifically public acceptance.
20 We want to share with you what we have found out
21 and what we propose to do and get your feedback
22 before we do make a final decision on it on how
23 to deal with these sites.

24 For these sites, we looked at four
25 specific alternatives. And all of these have

1 some common elements or assumptions. In all
2 cases the waste would remain in place. The
3 groundwater monitoring would be conducted for at
4 least five and up to 30 years. And the way it's
5 set up, there is a five-year review cycle. So
6 we would do the monitoring for the first five
7 years and then we would make a decision at that
8 point about whether it was appropriate for it to
9 continue.

10 They all assume DOE or its
11 successor would control the site for these first
12 30 years. And in our cost estimates for all
13 these alternatives, we've assumed the installation
14 of one additional aquifer monitoring well, that
15 whether or not that's actually needed will be
16 determined when we develop a monitoring plan.

17 Let's see. All of these cost
18 figures -- you see this issue came up earlier,
19 these are all the current value of money to be
20 spent over a 30-year period. It's not all next
21 year and it's not that much per year.

22 The first alternative, again, this
23 is the one that the law requires us to evaluate
24 and it's the No Action Alternative. In our case
25 its no action with monitoring. And under this

1 alternative, we assume no access restrictions
2 beyond that initial 30-year period where DOE
3 controls the site and keeps people away as
4 needed.

5 The cost of this alternative is
6 about \$1 million and that is for the
7 construction of a well if it needs to be done
8 for the monitoring itself and for the various
9 management associated with all of that.

10 Our second alternative is
11 Institutional Controls with Monitoring. I
12 touched on Institutional Controls earlier.
13 Basically this would be -- and specifically in
14 this case, fences would be constructed to
15 restrict access to the site. The access
16 restriction would go beyond the initial 30 years
17 because we'd have a fence there. This would
18 also include the monitoring. And the cost is
19 about \$1.9 million, of which about a half
20 million is for the initial construction, et
21 cetera, and \$1.4 million roughly is for the
22 ongoing monitoring and maintenance.

23 Alternative 3 is our Preferred
24 Alternative. That is a uniformed containment
25 with native soil cover. Basically this one,

1 soil cover, using the existing soil cover and
2 additional dirt as needed. We would construct a
3 soil cover to provide at least two feet of dirt
4 over the wastes, and we would also provide
5 leveling and grading to enhance control of run
6 on and run-off in order to limit pooling which
7 would cause migration. We would also have a
8 specified permeability of that cover which
9 would, again, limit infiltration of water and
10 therefore limit the potential for migration of
11 the waste down to the aquifer -- or of
12 contaminants down to the aquifer, excuse me.

13 This alternative would implement a
14 deed restriction on the land, which would
15 basically be a warning to potential future users
16 of the land that these wastes are there, and it
17 would also restrict the land use as needed to
18 reduce the risks.

19 This alternative would cost about
20 \$3.5 million, of which \$2 million is for initial
21 construction, et cetera, the cover and such, and
22 \$1.5 million for the ongoing monitoring and
23 maintenance.

24 Alternative 4 is our Containment
25 with a Single-Barrier Cover. Now, this one is

1 similar to Alternative 3 except that it adds
2 this impermeable layer which would be either a
3 clay layer or a geomembrane, and there are some
4 differences associated with getting a good
5 foundation for that layer and such. But
6 basically the big difference that we have is
7 this impermeable layer.

8 The idea here is to further reduce
9 the chance of infiltration of water and the
10 potential migration of contaminants. This would
11 also include deed restrictions. The cost of
12 this alternative is about \$15 million, of which
13 about 12 is for the initial construction, et
14 cetera, and about 3 for ongoing monitoring and
15 maintenance.

16 Now, this alternative has a higher
17 cost for the ongoing monitoring maintenance
18 because of additional measures required primarily
19 for things like methane, which could tend to
20 build up under this cover. This alternative
21 also introduces a higher short-term risk because
22 of the additional transportation and construction
23 activities.

24 Okay. As I mentioned, our Preferred
25 Alternative is Alternative 3. Basically,

1 what are the advantages of this alternative? In
2 the proposed plan on page 14 -- I won't read
3 it, but you can look at it later. It's a
4 summary of the Preferred Alternatives that goes
5 through some of the advantages of this one. And
6 we have some listed here addressing the
7 uncertainties that we have been talking about
8 using a proven technology that presumptive
9 remedy has been used on other landfills so it's
10 a proven technology. It limits potential for
11 migration of contaminants. It's protective of
12 human health and the environment and it
13 implements the monitoring plan to make sure it's
14 working.

15 So basically in a nutshell, it
16 provides protective protection and the best
17 balance among those evaluation criteria given
18 the regulatory environment in which we operate.
19 The cost is somewhat reasonable. And basically,
20 the No Action alternative we have to evaluate,
21 but it's not really a viable one in this case.

22 Alternative 3 is preferred because
23 Alternative 4 is a higher short-term risk and
24 much higher cost and Alternative 2 doesn't meet
25 the compliance with ARARs, which is a threshold

1 criteria, so it has to meet that one to be
2 further evaluated.

3 That's all I have on the landfills.
4 I also want to go over the underground storage
5 tank sites, but if there are any burning
6 questions, I'd be willing to take those now or
7 we'll have the regular Q/A period in a minute.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How many acres
9 are you talking about here?

10 MR. DUDZIAK: Thirty-five.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: With the
12 initial -- with the first landfill, is there any
13 history whatsoever of what was put in that
14 landfill? I mean, people that might have worked
15 at the INEL at that period of time that were
16 working on heavy equipment that might be able to
17 give us some indications of what was placed in
18 there?

19 MR. DUDZIAK: We do have some.
20 Steve, do you want to --

21 MR. McCORMICK: We do have some
22 indications of that.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Were there
24 petroleum distillates put in there?

25 MR. McCORMICK: Yes, there was.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Any of the
2 organic hydrocarbons? I just wonder if it
3 wouldn't be wise to do some testing in that area
4 and just see what is in there. Because I know
5 it's large, but I don't think that I would
6 assume anything. The uncertainty of that
7 particular dump site with the technology that
8 they were using at that particular time, I think
9 that you could find 50 gallon containers of
10 petroleum distillate in there and many, many of
11 them. And if you did, you would want to take
12 them out and contain them a different way rather
13 than leaving them in a hole in which the steel
14 containers are probably almost at a point now,
15 you know, of probably leaking into the aquifer
16 as we speak.

17 And we all know what kind of
18 compounds go into the soil, which there is
19 nothing that is going to grow over the top of
20 it. After just a few years, it's going to be
21 contaminated -- the two feet of soil that you
22 put on top of it, it's going to leach right up
23 to the top. And then you're just going to have
24 a huge mess. I really think it's worth looking
25 into that, I mean, actually digging into that

1 hole and just seeing -- I mean, how long would
2 it take you to take a backhoe out there, a
3 backhoe operator, and dig five or six holes and
4 see if you do discover, and if you don't, what
5 is it? It's a couple days work, you know.

6 MR. McCORMICK: Can I show you the
7 picture here real quick? The way that's
8 typically used to discover those kinds of spots
9 is to go in a surface cover and collect soil gas
10 samples. If you have something under there
11 that's significant, it will show up.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're getting
13 hydrobenzene, which is a volatile gas which is
14 being given off by petroleum distillates.
15 You're getting some measure of them. I mean,
16 you listed those.

17 MR. McCORMICK: It's typically
18 spread out across the landfills.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But at the same
20 time it would diffuse too.

21 MR. McCORMICK: That's true.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If it was ten
23 feet under ground, it's going to diffuse to
24 where it's not going to look like it's coming
25 from any one point of origin, it's going to look

1 like it's coming from everywhere.

2 Once again, I think it's worth
3 taking someone in there with a backhoe and
4 digging -- especially where they first
5 originally started these landfills. I mean, the
6 first landfill site, how long would it take? It
7 would take no time at all, and then you would
8 have to reevaluate what you want to do there. I
9 think the other two landfill sites, I think you
10 have enough information with the people that
11 have been around for this period of time.

12 It's just a suggestion, but it
13 seems to me that it would be worth looking into,
14 especially for 50 gallon barrels of petroleum
15 distillate. And you wouldn't want to leave them
16 in the ground. We know that all they are going
17 to do is seep into the aquifer. We know that.
18 So that is just my opinion.

19 MR. DUDZIAK: Thanks for the
20 suggestions.

21 MR. SMITH: Just to make a point
22 too, that's a great comment for the record when
23 we come back to the comment period, and you
24 could suggest that.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was wondering

1 if it had been done in their testing because
2 they saw the gases coming out, so I was
3 wondering if they had actually done something?

4 MR. McCORMICK: What we did do for
5 Landfill II over there, we did know that what is
6 called waste oil sludge was not even in drums,
7 it was just put out on the soil in areas. We
8 didn't know exactly where, and we did drill into
9 the landfill in seven locations to go to the
10 bottom to try to determine not specifically what
11 you're talking about, but try to determine if
12 there was leaching of contaminants out the
13 bottom of the landfill. But, again, you come
14 back to this issue of, well, seven locations out
15 of --

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is your
17 conclusion on that drilling?

18 MR. McCORMICK: Well, what we
19 concluded is there is really no leachate in
20 those seven locations. They were chosen as low
21 spots.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Those were in
23 Landfill II?

24 MR. McCORMICK: In Landfill II
25 simply because we knew there was sludge disposed

1 of there.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: In order to put
3 ground cover back on there, would you have to
4 scarify that contaminated soil in order to get
5 plant life to grow there again, is that what
6 you're considering? I mean, you have to do
7 something if it's been thrown on top of the
8 ground, I would think.

9 MR. McCORMICK: Well, I mean it was
10 disposed of there, it was put in and then other
11 waste on top of it, then cover, so the cover is
12 pretty clean.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a
14 question. So there is some existing native soil
15 cover on there now? It's been placed on there,
16 but it's local soil on there?

17 MR. McCORMICK: Yeah, the existing
18 cover is generally one to four feet thick.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What you're
20 proposing on No. 3 is just thickening that layer
21 some more?

22 MR. McCORMICK: The reason we call
23 it uniform is we want to make sure that we have
24 at least two feet over the waste everywhere,
25 because some places it's only a foot or so. So

1 what we would do is bring in additional soil as
2 needed to provide at least two foot thickness
3 and to provide the leveling and grading in order
4 to insure good runoff.

5 MR. SMITH: I think there was one
6 other point this gentleman asked about other
7 INEL employees who might have been there. Any
8 personal interviews?

9 MR. McCORMICK: Part of the
10 investigation really was talking to equipment
11 operators, people who were there. However, we
12 talked to people who worked at Landfill II and
13 some of them, some of the older ones were
14 younger then but didn't really go back into the
15 history here because the 1950s was a long time
16 ago.

17 However, you know, we do have
18 really limited records of interviews.

19 MR. DUDZIAK: That's where we get
20 into one of the areas of disposal.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I ask you why
22 they decided to do the test sampling in II
23 rather than I, when uncertainties in I were much
24 greater than II?

25 MR. McCORMICK: Because that's

1 where we knew waste or sludge was disposed of
2 primarily.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But there are
4 volatile compounds that are being sent, there
5 are sensors that have picked up volatile
6 compounds in that area I and II; is that right?

7 MR. McCORMICK: That is right.
8 However, the total volume -- it says five acres
9 for Landfill I, actually most of the waste is in
10 three trenches in Landfill I that are on this
11 northern part of the landfill right in here.
12 And a good part of the center is rock and rubble
13 and construction type wastes. So I'm trying to
14 think back to what the thinking was during that
15 investigation. I believe it was that there was
16 a limited amount of waste there in Landfill I.
17 There is a much greater amount of waste at
18 Landfill II.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But the waste oil
20 sludges from the early 1950s to 1972 would be
21 buried there.

22 MR. McCORMICK: In Landfill II.
23 Now, there could be some in
24 Landfill I, I'm not saying there isn't.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm saying

1 between 1950 and 1972, waste oil sludges would
2 be buried in Landfill I, right?

3 MR. McCORMICK: The waste oil
4 sludge that we know of is in Landfill II.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But it wasn't
6 open until 1972, and surely there were waste
7 sludges buried before 1972. They would have
8 been in I, right?

9 MR. McCORMICK: There could have
10 been. What we also know about Landfill I is
11 during that period of time and primarily most of
12 the waste in Landfill I went in in 1950 to early
13 1970. There were a few disposals in 1984 of
14 rock and so forth. But what we do know about
15 the practice of Landfill I is that they
16 practiced open burning. They would take trash
17 and if they were solvents or oil, they would
18 pile them out in a trench and light it at the
19 end of the day. They also had an incinerator
20 that was located right there and there was ash,
21 they would dispose of the ash into those
22 trenches. So a lot of the waste was burned.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there a
24 process by which if you found a large amount of
25 contaminants in the soil that you could actually

1 take and refire that soil or take the volatile
2 compounds out of it if you were to find that in
3 area I? Is there an incineration process?

4 MR. McCORMICK: I presume there is.
5 I mean, I'm not really familiar.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think it is. I
7 think there is a process by which you can
8 refire the soil and remove all the volatile
9 compounds.

10 MR. McCORMICK: We didn't evaluate
11 that as an alternative.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are you talking
13 about soil vapor action?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's basically
15 the scree burning the soil.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you know, was
17 there a practice of periodically as the landfill
18 was being built along of covering it up with
19 dirt and mixing it up and putting some more in,
20 and then putting dirt and stirring it up that
21 way as it was being built up?

22 MR. McCORMICK: For Landfill I, we
23 really don't know. We think they ran some dirt
24 in as they put the waste in. For Landfill II,
25 it started out as a gravel pit. They just

1 started in the low area, started piling waste in
2 and every day or so, probably every week or
3 every day, they would cover it with soil. And
4 then as it filled up, they covered it.

5 MR. DUDZIAK: The more present
6 practice is to cover it on a daily basis with
7 soil, but I wouldn't speak with certainty that
8 that was always done in the past.

9 MR. ROSENBERGER: I know a lot of
10 Landfill I, they made the assumption that the
11 waste that went into Landfill II also went into
12 Landfill I. When you look at that Track 2
13 Summary Report, the Landfill I was basically
14 investigated as a Track 2 originally, then
15 rolled into this remedial investigation and they
16 assume the same types, similar types of
17 quantities of waste with Landfill I.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But it is an
19 assumption?

20 MR. ROSENBERGER: It is an
21 assumption, exactly.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's the
23 question I have. I mean, how far can you go
24 with an assumption when there haven't been any
25 core tests that have been done on that particular

1 site? I'm wary of that particular site. I am.

2 I'll cover that during the comment
3 period.

4 MR. DUDZIAK: I would like to go
5 ahead and finish up with No Further Action
6 sites, then we can reopen for Q and A on all of
7 it.

8 Basically, similar to what you
9 heard on the previous presentation, in the case
10 of the Central Facilities Area, all of the sites
11 are underground storage tank sites, it can be
12 like one or two tanks per site, and there are 19
13 of them. What I would like to go into is the
14 Track 1 process, an overview of the sites and
15 conclusions of the investigation, which is that
16 no further action is appropriate for each of
17 them.

18 These sites were evaluated under
19 the Track 1 process, which Reuel and Alan Jines
20 described earlier, so we'll go into that. So if
21 there are any questions on that, you can ask
22 later.

23 There are 19 sites, 16 of them have
24 removal and sampling records. That is, basically
25 we went out recently and removed the tanks and

1 either recycled them or whatever and selected
2 samples in the bottom of the excavation to
3 confirm that there was no residual contamination
4 that would pose a risk. Two of them are
5 believed to be removed. This is based on other
6 information such as past records of where they
7 were and not being able to find them. This is
8 in the case of two 10,000 gallon tanks that were
9 last used in 1950. We believe they were removed
10 sometime between then when we looked for them
11 with ground penetrating radar and metal
12 detectors. The other one is based on an
13 interview with an operator who removed it, but
14 they didn't have any documentation.

15 One of them is still in use. This
16 is the one that I mentioned is not actually at
17 the Central Facilities Area proper. It's about
18 five miles north at the fire department training
19 area north of the Chemical Processing Plant and
20 the Test Reactor Area.

21 This one is still in use for fire
22 department training. Basically they have an
23 area out there where they have burn pits, and
24 they put some fuel in the pit and light it and
25 practice putting it out. So this tank is still

1 in use for that purpose. We do an evaluation
2 based on any past releases and it is determined
3 that no further action is appropriate. Now, if
4 the tank is still in use, it will have to be
5 addressed under the appropriate regulations when
6 it's taken out of service.

7 I just want to emphasize that our
8 recommendations are based on potential past
9 releases, and we did a tightness test on it to
10 make sure it wasn't leaking and we didn't
11 observe any contaminants around the fill ports
12 and such. Further details are available on
13 these in the proposed plan and in the
14 administrative record.

15 Basically in conclusion, all of
16 these sites were evaluated based on historical
17 records, sampling investigation, et cetera, and
18 revealed no releases that would pose an
19 unacceptable risk, and we recommend that no
20 further action be taken on these sites.

21
22 Q/A AND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

23 MR. SMITH: Okay. I appreciate the
24 questions that came up and we want to go back
25 into those. I would just like to mention that

1 the comment period on this project began
2 April 26th and ends May 26th. Based on what the
3 evaluation is of the body of public comment,
4 agency review and so forth, a Record of Decision
5 would be expected to be issued at some point in
6 time in the future. For landfills, possibly by
7 November. For the previous presentation that we
8 saw, possibly January of '96. And heavy
9 emphasis on -- this would be an expected outcome,
10 but it may not necessarily be an outcome.

11 Are there any other questions about
12 the Track 1 project that Alan just presented or
13 the landfill in general?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I didn't hear a
15 time frame. What are you looking at for these
16 plans to be implemented when you've gone through
17 your process?

18 MR. DUDZIAK: Basically, as Reuel
19 mentioned, we would expect the Record of
20 Decision in November and then, let's see,
21 getting into the planning stuff within a few
22 years.

23 MR. ROSENBERGER: By law they have
24 to be in the field within 15 months of ROD
25 signature.

1 MR. SMITH: Excuse me. Will you
2 explain what ROD means?

3 MR. ROSENBERGER: Record of
4 Decision. It explains what type of action you
5 are going to be taking in the field. And
6 basically we need to be in the field showing
7 some type of remedial activity within 15 months
8 after that decision document has been signed.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Who signs the
10 decision document?

11 MR. ROSENBERGER: All the agencies,
12 DOE and EPA and then the State.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So it's sent
14 around?

15 MR. ORLEAN: It's a tri-party
16 agreement.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's not
18 necessarily in November that it's signed?

19 MR. ORLEAN: Well, that's the
20 target date, and the agencies that are working
21 are trying to achieve that target date. You
22 know, with the cleanup action or remedial action
23 such as this, it shouldn't take very long after
24 that to actually implement it.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But the money is

1 available in the Superfund now? You're not
2 going to have to wait for funding?

3 MR. DUDZIAK: At the Federal
4 Facilities, we don't use Superfund money.
5 It's Department of Energy money to pay for the
6 cleanup.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But there
8 wouldn't be a problem there?

9 MR. DUDZIAK: It's in the budget.
10 There is a lot of turmoil in that regard these
11 days as you are probably aware of in the news,
12 but it should be there.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm shocked and
14 amazed that you just said that. I just came
15 back from Washington, D.C. and I didn't hear
16 anybody out there saying --

17 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, ma'am,
18 could you please speak up. If you would like to
19 finish what you said.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would rather go
21 on.

22 I have a question about landfill.
23 When you say it will -- I can't remember what
24 you said exactly -- anyway it will inhibit
25 contamination. What is the line I'm looking

1 for?

2 MR. DUDZIAK: Basically to limit
3 infiltration.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. In what
5 ways? Are you talking about air mostly there?

6 MR. DUDZIAK: No, water. As it is
7 now, you can kind of tell from looking at them
8 that they are not perfectly level, and if we
9 have heavy rains or snow melt, we can get
10 pooling, and if the water sits in one place it
11 will have a tendency to migrate in or to
12 infiltrate into the ground. And there is a
13 potential to drive contaminants when that
14 happens.

15 So part of the action is to provide
16 leveling and grading so we control the run on
17 and run-off in order to avoid that kind of
18 pooling that could cause that. It will also be
19 compacting cover to reduce the permeability of
20 the soil to water. So that again limits how
21 much water will infiltrate and potentially cause
22 contamination migration. Does that answer your
23 question?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question.

1 The type of floor that you're going to use in
2 order to replace for ground cover on this, is it
3 indigenous to the area or is it something --
4 it's not a rye grass or anything like that?

5 MR. DUDZIAK: It will be a native
6 grass.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's a native
8 grass from this area. I mean native grass
9 meaning -- is it a native grass or is it
10 non-native grass?

11 MR. DUDZIAK: Do you recall, Steve?

12 MR. McCORMICK: I don't recall
13 right offhand.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think that's --

15 MR. McCORMICK: That's typically
16 what is used. I'm not for sure that any
17 decision is made on that yet.

18 MR. DUDZIAK: But the expectation
19 is that it's a native vegetation. I think
20 crested wheat grass.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The reason that I
22 ask that, obviously, is that the maintenance of
23 the area, I mean, if someday it's not maintained
24 for some reason, whether it's because of the
25 lack of funding, I would rather see a natural

1 cover on that rather than something that we can
2 buy out of Costco, you know what I mean, as far
3 as the super green stuff that you have to
4 irrigate.

5 MR. DUDZIAK: No, we don't want to
6 introduce something like that.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Be careful of
8 that cheat grass.

9 MR. SMITH: We have another question.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The new landfill
11 area, is it in close proximity to this?

12 MR. DUDZIAK: Yes. As I mentioned,
13 this Landfill III extension was taken out of
14 service in 1993. Down here there is an asbestos
15 pit that is used at the landfill proper. This
16 picture kind of cuts it off. Landfill extends a
17 little further and adjacent to Landfill II is
18 the current landfill. They've cut off a couple
19 waste streams so that it's not getting -- I
20 don't know -- basically, they did an evaluation
21 when they shifted operations from here. And I'm
22 not directly involved in this, so I hope I get
23 this right. My understanding is that they have
24 taken a dumpster at EBR-1 that they now have the
25 state emptying when they empty the one at the

1 rest area so that we don't have this uncontrolled
2 waste stream. That was a place where we could
3 get household wastes which could potentially
4 have things that we wouldn't expect.

5 MR. SMITH: Will you explain what
6 EBR is?

7 MR. DUDZIAK: I'm sorry. It's
8 Experimental Breeder Reactor No. 1, and it's a
9 tourist site now. There is a dumpster that is
10 open to the public. So anybody could dump
11 something in there. In order to avoid getting
12 unknown things into the landfills on site, they
13 have made other arrangements for that waste.

14 So based on the existing landfill
15 -- and again to my understanding is industrial
16 waste only. Does that answer your question?

17 Anything else?

18 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. We
19 would like to invite you then to consider
20 comments on this proposed plan. Whether you're
21 commenting on -- I'll put these back up -- the
22 alternatives that have been identified in the
23 proposed plan or a combination of these
24 alternatives and a combination of these
25 alternatives with your ideas and suggestions.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a
2 question. On No. 3, is that going to include a
3 fence?

4 MR. DUDZIAK: Probably not. It
5 would be basically putting signs to warn people
6 what was there. But with the additional cover
7 work, a fence would probably not be necessary.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question
9 too. On No. 3, does that include -- the soil
10 that is placed on the surface, is that topsoil
11 or is it subsurface soil? I mean, are you going
12 to scarify an area that is around there with
13 enough topsoil to cover that area with, you
14 know, with something that's habitat for a local
15 grass species?

16 MR. DUDZIAK: The additional soil
17 would be from, in or around the INEL, we expect,
18 and their various sources on sites that we can
19 get that.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And your minimum
21 depth of soil would be what?

22 MR. DUDZIAK: It would be two feet
23 on top of the waste.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Two feet. And
25 your minimum depth of actual topsoil, that would

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21 depth of soil would be what?

22 MR. DUDZIAK: It would be two feet
23 on top of the waste.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Two feet. And
25 your minimum depth of actual topsoil, that would

1 be -- what do you think that might be? I mean,
2 I'm sure you're not going to use two feet of
3 topsoil over 35 acres. I wouldn't suppose that
4 you would probably want to do that. I mean,
5 you're talking a lot of --

6 MR. DUDZIAK: The estimate for the
7 additional volume of soil is 55,000 cubic yards
8 as I recall.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, that's
10 about what I figured it.

11 MR. McCORMICK: I don't think they
12 have set out how much of that will be topsoil.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think that we
14 need to get that kind of clear.

15 MR. DUDZIAK: That would be a good
16 thing to mention in the comment to make sure
17 it's addressed.

18 MR. SMITH: Maybe another issue, is
19 that typically identified in the Record of
20 Decision or is that in the remedial?

21 MR. DUDZIAK: That would be in the
22 design, I believe.

23 MR. SMITH: Okay. You might take a
24 second, then, to explain what the remedial
25 design is and how that fits into this. Not for

1 comment, but for informational purposes.

2 MR. McCORMICK: We have been
3 talking Record of Decision. The purpose of
4 public meetings is to gather input, agencies
5 make a decision and the agencies sign a Record
6 of Decision, that's a basic overall: we're
7 going to do this alternative or that alternative,
8 we've selected an alternative. And then you go
9 to the remedial design phase where the engineers
10 and geologists take over and they implement that
11 and come up with specific design details. Does
12 that answer the question?

13 MR. SMITH: Yes. Then that
14 information is provided in the information
15 repository so it is publicly available once the
16 material has been prepared.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: During the
18 remedial phase, as far as the design phase for
19 the recovery, is this -- are these people that
20 are the engineers involved in the design, are
21 they actually going through public record too of
22 this information or do they basically look at
23 the area and they look at the scope of the
24 project and they make their own determinations?
25 Do they actually take public comment or look at

1 the public comment concerning this?

2 MR. McCORMICK: Public comments
3 will be in the ROD, Record of Decision, that
4 information -- well, these guys are going to be
5 the ones looking at -- overseeing the remedial
6 design.

7 MR. ORLEAN: The Record of Decision
8 will lay out certain criteria for the design.
9 Okay. We want to make sure that the cover will
10 be uniform. We want to make sure that it's two
11 feet across. We want to make sure that the
12 grading will be in place, those kinds of things.
13 Those kinds of generic things will be in the
14 Record of Decision, and also the estimated
15 costs.

16 Now, the people that come in to
17 design, the engineers and geologists, of course,
18 the final Record of Decision will take into
19 account your comments. Okay. So the engineers
20 and geologists that come in to do the design
21 will then have to make sure that the design
22 conforms to the requirement in the Record of
23 Decision, so that's it.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was wanting to
25 know is it possible to have something like a 2.5

1 that would be cost effective or payable, to have
2 something in between like a 2.5 where you could
3 actually use your technical radar equipment and
4 sweep that area to determine the various depths
5 and thicknesses and then lay out kind of like
6 a jigsaw puzzle and go into those areas to meet
7 your two foot?

8 You say you actually want to round
9 cap it?

10 MR. DUDZIAK: What you are saying
11 is basically what Alternative 3 does. We have
12 existing information about the levels of the
13 thicknesses and such, and that is how they came
14 up with that estimate of 55,000 yards of
15 additional soil in order to get at least two
16 feet and provide the leveling and grading.

17 MR. SMITH: Good. Well, thanks for
18 explaining that. I think oftentimes we don't
19 talk about what comes after the Record of
20 Decision and that may be a mystery.

21 Back to this project, we would like
22 to enter into the formal comment portion of the
23 meeting then and invite you to make a comment
24 for the record. And again, there are three or
25 four ways to do that.

1 Would any of you like to make a
2 comment now with our court reporter?

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I like the
4 Preferred Alternative -- I'm Bruce Allen -- I
5 like the Preferred Alternative. I think that
6 I'm not opposed to it in any way, shape or form.
7 I think it's not much different than any other
8 waste site as far as a dump site that would be
9 in an urban area. I think that in my opinion
10 that the Area 1, because of the uncertainty of
11 what was put in there, I think that there needs
12 to be a little more work done on that particular
13 area in those trenches. And I think that we
14 need to be a little more -- I would like to be a
15 little more sure what is in there is not in 50
16 gallon barrels decaying as we speak and that
17 we're just closing our eyes to it.

18 But I think I would like to
19 congratulate everybody on this work that has
20 been done all night. I think all the work that
21 has been done is really exemplary. And once
22 again, the Preferred Alternative No. 3, that's
23 the only alternative I can see that makes sense.

24 The No. 4, I think that would just
25 slow down the decay process and cause it -- and

1 maybe that would be a question as to whether or
2 not we'd have an erosion problem sooner or later
3 down the road and we would have -- for the
4 problems 50 years from now, I think it's better
5 to let it decay in a natural way. It needs some
6 water. I think that we need to use the floor
7 that's indigenous to the area in case this area
8 is abandoned for budgetary reasons. And I think
9 that we need to have guarantees as to the native
10 soil at least four to six inches of topsoil.

11 Being a horticulturist, I know that
12 it would take at least four inches to establish
13 a decent plant growth on the top of it. I
14 wouldn't ask that all two feet be topsoil,
15 because that would be ludicrous, but the top
16 four to six inches, I think we need to maintain
17 that. That's all I want to say.

18 MR. SMITH: Thanks again. Any
19 others that would like to make a comment
20 tonight?

21 Okay. It's been quite an evening.
22 And we genuinely appreciate the time that you
23 folks have taken to be here tonight. We
24 apologize for the difficulty in finding this
25 building. We do have on the back of the agenda,

1 the meeting agenda, we have an evaluation form.
2 If you have some ideas and suggestions on what
3 we could do to make other individuals who might
4 be interested in this kind of activity aware of
5 what is going on, we'd be pleased to hear from
6 you. Even though the Community Relations Plan
7 is just out, it can be changed at any time to be
8 current and we've got to keep searching until
9 we find something that works well.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You are just
11 planning the three meetings?

12 MR. SMITH: Yes. There are offers
13 to groups and individuals if they would like to
14 have a teleconference call or briefing or a
15 speaker to come and give you a presentation.
16 We're ready to meet with anyone that would like
17 some interaction.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You can travel to
19 Ketchum to an organizational meeting?

20 MR. SMITH: Yes.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And would you do
22 that or would one of these gentlemen do that?

23 MR. SMITH: It depends on who is
24 making the request, the nature of the request.
25 If it's technically oriented, it would involve

1 one of the project managers. So we try to line
2 up the resource to give you the best
3 information.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Twila Hornbeck.
5 I might suggest that you try some kind of
6 meeting in the Twin Falls area because of the
7 huge amount of interest there is in that area
8 about the groundwater. It might be good to have
9 one more in that southern part of the state.

10 MR. SMITH: Okay. We have made
11 telephone calls to key individuals who have been
12 on our contact list over time, and in the past
13 we have had informal briefings in the INEL
14 regional offices in Twin Falls and Pocatello.
15 The feedback that we're getting from the Twin
16 Falls area residents is no more meetings. They
17 are not asking for them. They are saying they
18 are sick of meetings. They would rather have
19 some other form. Incidentally, we met at the
20 public library for an afternoon to say we don't
21 want you to have to meet our schedule, come in
22 when it's convenient for you. Although we did
23 pick a day, and most of the feedback has been
24 "still doing too much."

25 Thank you very much for being here.

1 I'm sure that the representatives will be here
2 for a few more minutes if you would like to have
3 informal conversations afterwards. Again, we
4 appreciate your attendance tonight.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a final
6 question. What counties are INEL in?

7 MR. SMITH: If you could see this
8 magic political boundary that comes in here, we
9 have Bonneville County, we have part of Bingham
10 County, Butte County, Clark and Jefferson. So
11 what is that, five counties?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

13 MR. SMITH: Again, thank you very
14 much. That will be our meeting for the night.

15
16 (The meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

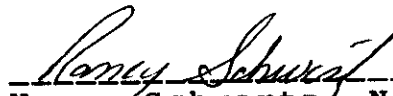
STATE OF IDAHO)
County of Ada) ss.

I, NANCY SCHWARTZ, a Notary Public
in and for the State of Idaho, do hereby certify:

That said hearing was taken down by
me in shorthand at the time and place therein
named and thereafter reduced to computer type,
and that the foregoing transcript contains a
true and correct record of the said hearing, all
done to the best of my skill and ability.

I further certify that I have no
interest in the event of the action.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 2nd
day of June, 1995.


Nancy Schwartz, Notary
Public in and for the
State of Idaho

My commission expires:
November 5, 1996